



The Time Management Challenge!

Finding time to nurture our work as writers can be very difficult, especially at this time of year. Successful writers know that schedules never get any lighter and that time is **always** too short. They meet this challenge by making writing a priority and often, dedicating a small amount of time to daily writing practice. Writing, like so many other things that are good for us, can become a habit. We simply need to plan for it! This challenge aims to support young writers as they begin carving out time for daily writing. It is open to Studio fellows AND their students.

The Rules:

1. The challenge begins Monday, February 8th and ends April 8th.
2. Please set aside 10-15 minutes AT THE SAME TIME every single day that you will use strictly for writing practice. Scheduling this time consistently will help you get into the habit of writing, and it will also train your brain to “turn on” at that time each day. Consider these opportunities:
 - Wake up fifteen minutes earlier each morning and write.
 - Write for fifteen minutes before you go to bed each night.
 - Write on the school bus, in the car on the way to practices, or as you eat your breakfast each morning.
 - Write for fifteen minutes after dinner.
 - Brainstorm in the shower each morning, and spend ten minutes writing when you get out.

3. You do not have to devote this writing time to advancing your formal writing projects. Also!!!! Working on school-related assignments DOES NOT COUNT. Rather, use this time to journal, “free write”, brainstorm, or capture the things you are noticing in your daily life. This particular type of writing is VERY IMPORTANT and it will actually DECREASE the stress you are feeling about “all that you have to do.” Daily writing practice de-clutters your mind, gives you a place to capture ideas and emotions that are rattling around inside of you, and it allows you to think and write in creative ways. This will keep your fingers limber and your mind well-oiled and better able to work on your more formal writing projects.

4. Place an X next to each day that you are able to meet this challenge. Then, ask a parent to sign-off on the document below, verifying that you have carved this time out for yourself and that you have truly used it. Hang on to your writing too, so you can show us what you’ve accomplished (no one will read it, however)! The goal is to write every single day. We know that life conspires to throw us off course sometimes, however. As long as you write MOST days, we’ll consider you an active participant in the challenge.

Everyone who participates within AND beyond Studio will be recognized in our May newsletter and at our Writing Celebration on the last day of Studio this June. All participants will also be entered to win one of TWO prizes:

- **Studio participants will be entered to win a WRITER’S TOOLBOX, filled with great books for writers, journals and other great writing materials, and a number of technology tools, including a FLIP VIDEO CAMERA.**
- **Those who participate outside of Studio will be entered to win a one year Studio fellowship.**

Calendars and signatures can be submitted to Angela Stockman at the April Studio session or mailed to her attention at 94 McKinley Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217. The deadline for submitting entries is April 17th.

Name of Writer: _____ Email or Phone: _____

Please place an X on each calendar day that you complete your writing practice. Ask your parents to sign off at the bottom of each month.

~ February 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 BEGIN HERE!!	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	Parent Signature:					

~ March 2010 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Parent Signature:		

~ April 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 LAST DAY!!	9	10 STUDIO SESSIONS!
Parent Signature:						